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I am writing to you to in support of Senate bill 2. I also request that it be made even stronger.

I jumped into the competitive market several years ago based on all the promotion of it as a way to save significant amounts of money on my electric bill. Confident I could use the website for information, I chose the lowest fixed rate from one supplier. When that contract ended I switched to ConEdison Solutions which was then the lowest fixed rate on the website. This was done with a minimum of effort over the phone. In ConEd's favor, I happened to speak to people whose language skills were clear and favorable to my 81 year old hearing loss

Through this time period my mail always contained multiple full color brochures featuring reasons to switch to this or that company mostly all promoting themselves as a way to save money on my energy costs. In early December of 2013, even though I am on a "Do Not Call List", Starion Energy began a relentless telephone campaign to warn me that the CL&P rates were going up and I should act fast.

Unfortunately at that point, ConEd Solutions hadn't communicated with its existing customers what their rate would be for 2014. This factor caused me to accept Starion's rate...the only one offered, which turned out to be a variable rate. Within 24 hours, I had read an article titled, "Electric Shadyland" that pointed out that a principle involved with Starion had some serious problems with the CT Attorney General regarding business practices. I called Starion to opt out of the contract and that I wanted to stay with a fixed rate. On doing that they suddenly offered me a fixed rate. I still refused based on the information in the magazine article...that information stunned the salesperson and she asked if I would send it to her. I did. The contract was voided. I was troubled that they did not even offer me or make available to me a fixed rate as opposed to the variable rate in the first place during their relentless telephone campaign.

The business plans for most of these third party electric suppliers seems to prey on the elderly and try to sell the variable rate and hope the customer doesn't notice a later change upward. Keeping up with this market is possible but requires diligence, personal fortitude, and a healthy confidence in the use of a computer. As a Senior Citizen, I and my fellow seniors will be challenged to avoid getting bilked in this market game. However, even in the best of circumstances, even if I pay due diligence to the supplier market and make all the correct choices the savings that it affords me hardly seem to make the entire process worth it-

